

**In the Claims:**

1-60 (Cancelled)

61. (new) A stent assembly comprising:

- a. a stent including a substantially tubular expandable stent body with walls, a first stent end, a second stent end and a central axis;
- b. at least two cover connectors associated with said stent body, each said cover connector including at least one penetrating element; and
- c. a substantially tubular stent cover in contact with a surface of said stent body and secured thereto by said penetrating elements penetrating through said stent cover.

62. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein said stent cover is in contact with an inner surface of said stent body.

63. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein said stent cover is in contact with an outer surface of said stent body.

64. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein at least two said cover connectors are integrally formed with said stent body.

65. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein a first said cover connector is proximate to said first stent end and a second said cover connector is proximate to said second stent end.

66. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, said walls of said stent body comprising bar members disposed substantially in parallel to said central axis of said stent body.

67. (new) The stent assembly of claim 66, wherein a said cover connector is associated with a said bar member.

68. (new) The stent assembly of claim 67, wherein a said cover connector is integrally formed with a said bar member.

69. (new) The stent assembly of claim 66, wherein said stent body comprises a plurality of wall sections including at least one said bar member extending between any two adjacent said wall sections.

70. (new) The stent assembly of claim 69, wherein said wall sections are substantially ring-shaped.

71. (new) The stent assembly of claim 66, wherein said stent body comprises a plurality of elongated wall sections disposed substantially in parallel to said central axis.

72. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein at least one said cover connector includes two penetrating elements.

73. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein at least a portion of said at least one penetrating element penetrating through said stent cover is bent over said stent cover.

74. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein at least two of said cover connectors are in line substantially parallel to said central axis.

75. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein at least three of said cover connectors are in line substantially parallel to said central axis.

76. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein said stent cover is substantially a sheet in contact with a surface of said stent body so that a first edge and a second edge of said sheet substantially abut.

77. (new) The stent assembly of claim 76, wherein a said cover connector has two penetrating elements, a first penetrating element penetrating through said stent cover proximately to said first edge of said sheet and a second penetrating element penetrating through said stent cover proximately to said second edge of said sheet.

78. (new) The stent assembly of claim 61, wherein said stent cover is substantially a sheet in contact with a surface of said stent body so that a first edge and a second edge of said sheet overlap.

79. (new) The stent assembly of claim 78, wherein a said penetrating element penetrates through both said first edge of said sheet and said second edge of said sheet where said edges overlap.

80. (new) A method of making a stent assembly comprising:

- a) providing a stent including a substantially tubular stent body with a first stent end, a second stent end and at least two cover connectors associated with said stent body, each said cover connector including at least one penetrating element;
- b) contacting a sheet of material with a surface of said stent body so that a first edge of said sheet is in proximity of a second edge of said sheet so as to form a substantially tubular stent cover; and
- c) piercing said sheet with said penetrating elements so that said penetrating elements penetrate through said sheet so as to secure said sheet to said stent.

81. (new) The method of claim 80, wherein said sheet is contacted with an inner surface of said stent body.

82. (new) The method of claim 80, wherein said sheet is contacted with an outer surface of said stent body.

83. (new) The method of claim 80, further comprising:

- d) bending a portion of said penetrating elements penetrating through said sheet over said sheet.

84. (new) The method of claim 80, wherein said sheet is rolled up so that said first edge of said sheet overlaps said second edge of said sheet and said piercing causes said penetrating elements to penetrate through said sheet in proximity of said first edge of said

sheet and in proximity of said second edge of said sheet in proximity of where said edges overlap.

85. (new) The method of claim 80, wherein said sheet is rolled up so that said first edge of said sheet substantially abuts said second edge of said sheet, wherein at least two of said cover connectors include two penetrating elements, and wherein said piercing causes a first penetrating element of each of said two cover connectors to penetrate through said sheet in proximity of said first edge and a second penetrating element of each of said two cover connectors to penetrate through said sheet in proximity of said second edge.